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rence McCarthy and a few of his clan. Sir George Carew marched against them with an army mostly composed of Irish;* and O'Neil and O'Donnell hastened to their relief, and hazarding a battle near Cork, were completely defeated. The Spaniards plundered several monasteries while here, and despoiled and violated the church of St. Multoria.†

Prince Rupert and his armament landed at Kinsale, but the next year it surrendered to Cromwell. A curious anecdote is told regarding the usurper at this time. Upon receiving the keys of the town from the mayor, he handed them over to Colonel Stubber, the military governor. On it being remarked that it was the rule to return them to the magistrate, and that Colonel Stubber was not to be trusted, as he had very loose opinions regarding religion, "Perhaps you say what is true," replied Cromwell, "but consider, though Colonel Stubber may not be over strict in religious matters, yet he's a soldier, and his honour must be dear to him."‡

In 1689, King James landed at Kinsale with a strong force, but the ensuing year it was taken by the famous Duke of Marlborough, after a very brave resistance. The French and Spanish prisoners confined here in 1747, made an attempt to possess themselves of the military stores, but the plot was discovered and prevented.

J. L. L.

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF PERSIA.

There are few publications of the present day with which we are better pleased than "*The Edinburgh Cabinet Library*." It is in general written in an easy, familiar style; and combining instruction with amusement, it is well calculated to excite a taste for a species of reading peculiarly serviceable to the young—affording at once an intimate acquaintance with the habits and manners of the people of whom it treats, and of the country to which its descriptions refer. In a former Journal we laid before our readers some interesting particulars relative to "the Arabs," taken from the 14th number of the work alluded to, and from the 15th number, which gives "An Historical and Descriptive Account of Persia," we extract the following:—

SCENERY OF PERSIA.

On entering Persia the impression which the traveller receives is unfavourable, particularly if he come from the rich and fertile India, and it is but little removed by further acquaintance. The appearance of the mountains is in general forbidding in the extreme. They present to the eye little else than masses of grey rock, splintered by the weather, and often starting very abruptly from the plain. Even where the mouldering strata afford a little soil, the acclivities are for the most part unenlivened by wood or herbage, and the verdure of spring has scarcely refreshed the eye for two short months before it is scorched up, and not a tuft of its rapid but transitory growth remains. No trees gladden the landscape except the tall poplar or the stately chinar (*Platanus Orientalis*), which rise above the hovels of the peasants; or the fruit-trees of their orchards; or perhaps a few of other sorts which may have been planted on the margin of a watercourse to

supply the little timber required: and these, dotting the wide plain with their dark foliage, convey to the mind a melancholy rather than a cheering impression. When the traveller looks down from the pass which he has laboriously climbed, his wearied eye wanders over a uniform brown expanse, losing itself in distance, or bounded by blue mountains, arid and rocky as those on which he stands.—The broken caravansary, with its black arches,—the square mud-walled fortalice with its crenellated towers,—or the decayed castle of some bandit chief, are objects more in unison with the scene, and which give birth to painful but not ill-grounded suspicions of the melancholy condition of the inhabitants. Such is the scenery which, during many successive days, presents itself to the traveller throughout the greater part of Persia.

PRECARIOUS CONDITION OF PERSIAN COURTIER.

Nothing more strikingly illustrates the demoralizing influence of the system of government in Persia, than the insensibility to disgrace which it produces among all classes of the people,—a callousness that is most remarkable among courtiers. A minister or governor offends the king, or is made the object of accusation, justly or unjustly. He is condemned, perhaps unheard, his property is confiscated, his slaves are given to others, his family and wives are insulted, perhaps delivered over to the brutality of grooms and ferozeshes, and his person is maltreated with blows or mutilated by the executioner's knife. Nothing can be imagined more complete than such a degradation; nothing one would imagine, could be more poignant than his anguish, or more deep and deadly than his hatred and thirst for revenge. Yet these reverses are considered merely as among the casualties of service, as clouds obscuring for a while the splendour of courtly fortune, but which will soon pass away, and permit the sun of prosperity to shine again in its fullest lustre; and experience proves that these calculations are correct, for the storm often blows by as rapidly as it comes on. Royal caprice receives the sufferer again into favour; his family is sent back to him, with such of his slaves as can be recovered; and his property, pruned of all dangerous exuberance, is returned. A bath mollifies his bruised feet,—a cap conceals his crooked ears,—a khelut covers the multitude of sins and stains, and proves a sovereign remedy for all misfortunes,—and the white-washed culprit is often reinstated in the very government he had lost, perhaps carrying with him a sentence of disgrace to his successor, to whose intrigues he owed his temporary fall.

HOUSEHOLD MISERIES OF SHAH ABBAS.

As a parent and relative, his character appears in a very revolting light. The bitterest foes of an absolute prince are those of his own household. Abbas had four sons, on whom he doated as long as they were children; but when they grew up towards manhood, they became objects of jealousy, if not of hatred; their friends were considered as his enemies; and praises of them were as a knell to his soul. These unhappy feelings were aggravated by the representations of some of his courtiers; and the princes, harassed and disgusted by their father's behaviour towards them, listened to advice which suggested a direct but dangerous way to safety. The eldest, Sulfec Mirza, a brave and high-spirited youth, fell the first victim of this fatal suspicion. The veteran, whom the king first proposed to employ as the assassin of his son, tendered his own life as a sacrifice to appease the monarch's anger, but refused to cut off the hope of Persia. Another was found less scrupulous. Behbood Khan, a creature of the court, on pretence of a private injury, stabbed the prince as he came from the bath; but the shelter which he received in the sanctuary of the royal stable, and his subsequent promotion, showed by whom the dagger had been pointed.—Neither the tyrant nor his instrument, however, remained long unpunished. Abbas, stung with remorse, put to death on various pretexts the nobles who had poisoned his mind against his heir; while for Behbood he contrived a more ingenious torture, commanding him to bring the head of his own son. The devoted slave obeyed, and when he

* Sir George Carew's army, when it sat down before Kinsale, consisted of 3000 men, 2000 of which were Irish. See *Pac. Rib.* fol. 213.

† Morrison says that Don Juan surrendered Kinsale in consequence of finding the Irish had no confidence in him; and that the people ascribed the Spaniards' want of success to their sacrilege—and the defeat of O'Neil and O'Donnell to their plundering the monasteries of Timnalegue and Kilerua. —*History of Ireland*, fol. 192.

‡ It is said that the mayor and townsmen obliged Colonel Stubber to surrender on the first summons, though determined to hold out, a fact which must have been known to Cromwell,

presented the gory countenance of his only child, the king, with a bitter smile, demanded what were his feelings. "I am miserable," was the reply. "You should be happy; Behbood," rejoined the tyrant, "for you are ambitious, and in your feelings you at this moment equal your sovereign." But repentance wrought no amendment in the gloomy soul of Abbas. One of his sons had died before the murder of Suffee Mirza; and the eyes of the rest were put out by order of their inhuman parent. The eldest of these, Khodabundeh, had two children, of whom Fatima, a lovely girl, was the delight of her grandfather. Goaded to desperation, the unhappy prince seized his little daughter one day as she came to caress him, and with maniac fury deprived her of life. He then groped for his infant boy, but the shrieking mother bore it from him, and carried it to Abbas. The rage of the distracted monarch at the loss of his favourite gave a momentary joy to the miserable father, who concluded the tragedy by swallowing poison. Horrors like these are of daily occurrence in the harem of an Eastern tyrant. Yet such is the king whom the Persians most admire; and so precarious is the nature of despotic power, that monarchs of a similar character alone have successively ruled the nation.

PRESENT SOVEREIGN OF PERSIA.

The ruling passion of Futeh Ali Shah is an insatiable desire of accumulating wealth, which has proved more injurious to his kingdom than all the efforts of his enemies. His avarice is in fact the jest as well as the bane of the people. If a fruit or sweetmeat come early in season, he sends a portion to his favourites, who are obliged to acknowledge the honour by a valuable return, besides rewarding the messenger. He one day made fifteen hundred toman in this way, out of a rupee which he found by accident, and with which he purchased apples to distribute in these costly presents. He has a practice also of inveigling his courtiers into bets about his shooting, in which he is sure to gain; for not only is he an excellent marksman, but the attendants take care, by cutting the throats of the sheep at which he has fired, to protect their sovereign's fame and his purse at the same time. The most degrading of his expedients to amass money is that of selling his daughters, and even his wives, to individuals, generally of noble rank, for large sums, and assuredly not always with the consent of either party. To divorce a wife for the purpose of selling her is directly contrary to the spirit of the Mohammedan law; yet the king, though professing himself an orthodox Mussulman, has been guilty of this scandal more than once, and has fastened a spouse on some unfortunate man, who was forced to pay a large sum for an encumbrance which he was most earnestly desirous to avoid. The darkest stains on this monarch's character, however, are the murder of his uncle Saduk, and his ungrateful conduct to his old zealous minister Hajji Ibrahim. The assassination of his relative might have been defended on the stern necessity of state policy; but that could not palliate the treachery and cruelty which accompanied the act. Saduk Khan, unable to struggle with his nephew, had surrendered on a secret promise that he should not be put to death. The king confined his victim in a room, built up the doors and windows, and left him to die by inches, conceiving this to be no violation of his oath. When the apartment was opened, it was discovered that the miserable captive had dug deep in the floor with his hand, and swallowed the clay to assuage the pangs of hunger.

WANDERING TRIBES OF PERSIA.

The march of one of the wandering tribes is a striking spectacle. The main body is generally preceded by an advanced guard of stout young men well armed, as if to clear the way; then follow large flocks of all kinds of domestic animals, covering the country far and wide, and driven by the lads of the community. The asses, which are numerous, and the rough stout yabooos, are loaded with goods, tents, clothes, pots and boilers, and every sort of utensil, bound confusedly together. On the top of some of the burdens may be seen mounted, the elder children, who act the part of drivers; on others, the lesser urchins,

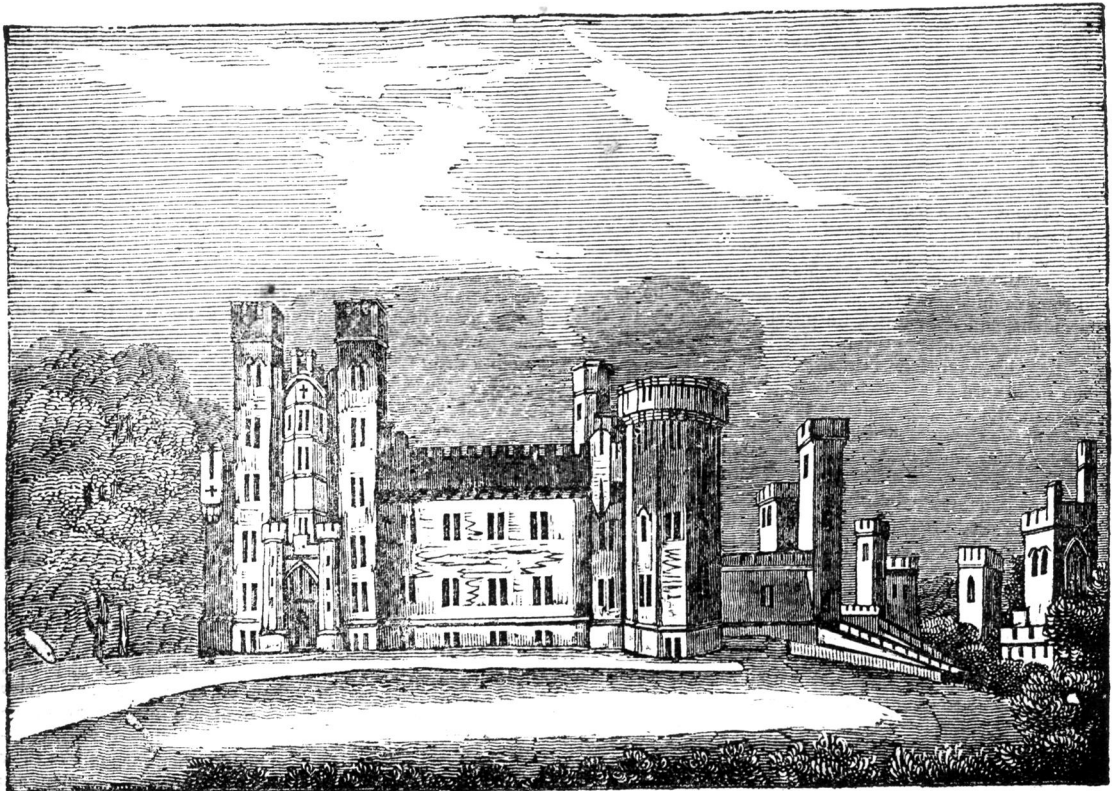
not able to speak, yet quite at their ease,—neither seeking nor receiving attention, but holding on manfully with feet and hands. A third class of animals bear the superannuated of the tribe, bent double with age, and hardly distinguishable from the mass of rags that forms their seat. The young men and women bustle about, preventing with the assistance of their huge dogs, their cattle from straying too far. The mothers, carrying the younger infants, patiently trudge along on foot, watching the progress of their domestic equipage. The men, with sober, thoughtful demeanour, armed to the teeth and duly prepared for action, walk steadily on the flanks and rear of the grotesque column, guarding and controlling its slow but regular movements.—It is not safe for travellers slightly protected to meet such companies on their march. The writer, on his way to Shiraz, being in advance of his friends, in the gray of the morning, observed one or two men appear from a hollow near at hand. Their numbers rapidly increased to fifteen or sixteen well-armed fellows, who quickly approached; a halt was called until the party came up, during which they stood eyeing the strangers, balancing as it were the expediency of an attack. Apparently they distrusted the result, and sent one of their body forward to parley. They said they were from the encampment of a neighbouring tribe on a search for strayed cattle; and they went away in another direction. "That may or may not be true," observed one of the attendants, himself an old freebooter; "but these fellows once on foot will not return as they came; their own or another's they will have; they dare not go home to their wives empty-handed."—The author has frequently paused to view such a primitive procession, and to mark the wild and picturesque figures which formed its groups. Their features, as well as their costume, are altogether peculiar. However fair the natural complexion—and the infants are nearly as white as Europeans,—exposure turns their skins to a dark mahogany hue, approaching to black; though a deep ruddy tinge pervades this brown mask, imparting a pleasing tone of health and vigour. The men have well made, powerful frames, piercing black eyes, noses generally aquiline, and frequently overhanging their thick mustachios, which, united with a black bushy beard, almost entirely conceal their mouths. Their dress consists of a coarse blue shirt and trousers, with heavy cloaks thrown over their shoulders, the sleeves being left unoccupied; a conical cap of white or gray felt, with flaps for the ears, covers their head. They usually carry a gun, and sometimes two, slung across the back. A large knife or dagger in the girdle, and a sword or clubbed stick completes their equipment. Their whole aspect is strongly characteristic of health, hardihood, and independence; while their wild stare marks the total want of polish, courtesy, or civilization. The young women have quite the gipsy cast of countenance, and are often very handsome. A sweet nutbrown hue warmed with vivid crimson, the effect of exercise in the open air, marks their usual complexion. Their eyes, like those of the men, are dark and expressive; the nose is well formed and delicate; the mouth is small, set off with white teeth and a lurking smile, the herald of good humour; while the outline of a fine and slender shape is often to be detected through the rags that hang about their persons. Nothing, indeed, can be more ungraceful than their attire. A patched pair of trousers, often of very limited dimensions; a loose shift of blue or white cotton, the skirts of which do not nearly reach the knee; and a species of mantle thrown over the head and shoulders, crossing the brow like a band, and flowing a certain way down the back, comprise the principal part of their apparel. They wrap also round the head a handkerchief or bunch of cloth, in place of a turban; and this dress, varied in its appearance by frequent repairs, is common to all the females of the tribe. They soon lose their beauty, becoming of a coarse sunburnt red; the next change is to a parched and withered brown; and the shrivelled grandams of Eliauts, with their hook-nosed and skinny countenances, realise in perfection all that is imagined of hags and witches.

PARENTAL AFFECTION.

In the reign of Kurcem Khan, twelve men were robbed

and murdered under the walls of Shiraz. The perpetrators could not for a long time be discovered; but the king, resolving to make an example for the sake of good order, commanded the officers of justice to persevere, under heavy threats, until a matter which so much concerned his own reputation should be brought to light. At length by accident, it was found out that a small branch of Kureem's own tribe of Zund were the guilty persons. Their crime was clearly proved, and, in spite of powerful intercession, all actually engaged in the murder were condemned to die. The circumstance that they were of the king's own clan made their case worse: they had dishonoured their sovereign and could not be forgiven.—When the prisoners were brought before the monarch to be sentenced and executed, there was among them a youth, twenty years of age, whose appearance excited universal interest; but this anxiety was increased to pain when his father rushed forward and demanded, before they were led to death, to speak with the prince. Permission was easily obtained, and he addressed the monarch

as follows :—"Kureem Khan! you have sworn that these guilty men shall die, and it is just that they should suffer; but I, who am not guilty, come here to demand a boon of my chief. My son is young—he has been deluded into crime; his life is forfeited,—but he has hardly tasted the sweets of existence. He is just betrothed in marriage: I come to die in his stead. Be merciful! let an old, worn-out man perish, and spare a youth who may long be useful to his tribe; let him live to drink of the waters and till the ground of his ancestors!" The shah was deeply moved by this appeal: to pardon the offence was impossible, for he had sworn on the Koran that all concerned should die. With feelings very different from our ideas of justice, but congenial to those of the chief of a tribe, he granted the father's prayer, and the old man went exultingly to meet his fate; while the son, wild and distracted with grief, loudly called on the prince to reverse his decree,—to inflict on him the doom he merited, and save the life of his aged and innocent parent.



MITCHELSTOWN CASTLE.

The above sketch may give a slight idea of the architectural beauty of the front elevation of Mitchelstown castle, in the county of Cork, the splendid seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Kingston, by whom it was erected on coming to the estate in 1823. It has been built, very judiciously, on the site of the old family residence, a large and extensive building, but not suited to the princely mind of the noble proprietor. This magnificent edifice has been designed and built in a manner which reflects the highest honour on the architects—the Messrs. Paine. The elevations are of cut stone, lined with brick, which contributes to keep the immense structure free from damp. On considering the depth and solidity of the walls, the extreme beauty and finish of every part—the elegant sculpture of the armorial bearings of the noble houses of Fitzgerald, Fenton, and King, which adorn the building, we are astonished to learn that all was completed in the short space of three years—quite ready for the reception of his lordship's family and numerous guests. The interior is fitted up in a style of magnificence which accords well with the

imposing grandeur of the outside. In the centre of the principal suite of rooms is the library, well stored with rare and valuable books; amongst which is that splendid and interesting work of genius, learning, and research, on "Mexican Antiquities," by the Lord Viscount Kingsborough.

We also give the north elevation of the castle. On this side its stately towers are seen to the greatest advantage; they appear rising from a rock, which, thickly planted, stretches down to a broad sheet of water, on whose clear bosom the whole scene is reflected, reminding one forcibly of "the round towers of other days." The majestic position of the castle is in bold keeping with the adjacent mountains and surrounding country, of which it commands a most extensive prospect.

In the midst of these picturesque heights, the Gaulties, overlooking a romantic glen, is another beautiful residence of the same nobleman, a view of which we may give in a future number of the Journal.